

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 24, 2007, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this Response, claims 1-6, 8, 14, and 28 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Claims 12-13 and 25-27 were previously withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 14-24, and 28-31 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 14, and 28 are independent claims.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections to the claims for the reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejected claims 11 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Applicant respectfully submits that “International Mobile Subscriber Identity” (IMSI) is a permissible term under MPEP §608.01(v). Pursuant to MPEP §608.01(v), a trade name is a proprietary name by which an article or product is known and called among traders or workers in the art. Names used in trade are permissible in patent

applications if (A) their meanings are established by an accompanying definition which is sufficiently precise and definite to be made a part of a claim, or (B) in this country, their meanings are well-known and satisfactorily defined in the literature.

IMSI is a permissible term because IMSI has an established meaning well-known and satisfactorily defined in literature, which provides sufficient definiteness. IMSI is a unique identifier allocated for each mobile subscriber in a GSM and UMTS network. IMSI consists of a mobile country code, a mobile network code, and a mobile station identification number (See Appendix A).

Accordingly, the limitation IMSI is definite; therefore, the limitations recited in claims 11 and 24 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 11 and 24, and respectfully submits that claims 11 and 24 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 14-16, 18-20, 22-24, and 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by XP-002286828 (“XP”). The Office Action alleged that XP discloses or suggests every claim feature recited in claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 14-16, 18-20, 22-24, and 28-31. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in XP.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-10 and 13 are dependent, recites a method of generating a subscriber identifier. The method includes generating an identifier base

string based on encrypting a subscriber identifying value, generating an integrity check value based on the identifier base string, and generating the subscriber identifier based on a concatenation of the identifier base string and the integrity check value.

Claim 14, upon which claims 15-24 are dependent, recites a network control node for generating a subscriber identifier. The network node includes means for generating an identifier base string based on encrypting a subscriber identifying value, means for generating an integrity check value based on the identifier base string, and means for generating the subscriber identifier based on a concatenation of the identifier base string and the integrity check value.

Claim 28, upon which claims 29-31 are dependent, recites a computer program product stored on a tangible medium. The product includes software code, which performs, when executed by one or more processors, generating an identifier base string based on encrypting a subscriber identifying value, generating an integrity check value based on the identifier base string, and generating a subscriber identifier based on a concatenation of the identifier base string and an integrity check value.

As will be discussed below, XP fails to disclose or suggest every feature recited in claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 14-16, 18-20, 22-24, and 28-31, and therefore fails to provide the features discussed above.

XP is directed to using cookies. XP discloses that an alternative to using hidden fields or URLs is to store information such as usernames, passwords, and shopping cart contents in HTTP cookies. Users may modify the cookies; thus, cookies have the same

problems encountered for hidden fields or compound URLs. Additionally, cookies have their own problems. XP further discloses that cryptography, and more particularly a cryptographic block of information, can be used to protect the information in hidden fields, compound URLs, and cookies (XP, pages 451-452).

Applicant respectfully submits that XP fails to disclose or suggest every feature recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 14 and 28. Specifically, XP fails to disclose or suggest, at least, “generating an identifier base string based on encrypting a subscriber identifying value” as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 14 and 28.

Rather, XP is specifically directed to creating a cryptographic block of stored information. Individual variables that need to be preserved are encoded into a string. A 4-byte timestamp is prepended to the variables. Data is compressed, and the length of the string is prepended to the data. The string is encrypted using a symmetric encryption function with a secret key. A HMAC function is calculated of the encrypted string and prepended to the encrypted string (XP, page 452, steps 1-6).

XP fails to disclose or suggest, at least, “generating an identifier base string based on encrypting a subscriber identifying value” (emphasis added). The Office Action alleged that step 5 discloses the aforementioned claim feature. Rather, XP merely discloses encrypting the string (See XP, page 452, step 5), failing to disclose or suggest, “generating an identifier base string based on encrypting a subscriber

identifying value" (emphasis added). Accordingly, XP fails to disclose or suggest every feature recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 14 and 28.

Claims 2-3, 5-7, and 9-11 depend from claim 1. Claims 15-16, 18-20, and 22-24 depend from claim 14. Claims 29-31 depend from claim 28. Accordingly, claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-11, 15-16, 18-20, 22-24, and 29-31 should be allowable for at least their dependency upon an allowable base claim, and for the limitations recited therein.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 14-16, 18-20, 22-24, and 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a), and respectfully submit that claims 1, 14, and 28, and the claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 4, 8, 17, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable as obvious over XP. The Office Action took Official Notice, indicating that it is well known in the art to include a key identifier with encrypted data (See Office Action on pages 4-5). Applicant respectfully submits that the claims recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in XP, nor cured by the Office taking Official Notice that it is well known in the art to include a key identifier with encrypted data.

As previously noted for claims 1 and 14, XP fails to disclose or suggest, at least, "generating an identifier base string based on encrypting a subscriber identifying value."

The Office Action taking Official Notice that it is well known in the art to include a key identifier with encrypted data fails to cure the deficiencies of XP with regard to the aforementioned claim features. Accordingly, XP fails to disclose or suggest every feature recited in claims 1, 14, and 28.

Claims 4 and 8 depend from claim 1. Claims 17 and 21 depend from claim 14. Accordingly, claims 4, 8, 17, and 21 should be allowable for at least their dependency upon an allowable base claim, and for the limitations recited therein.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 4, 8, 17, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and respectfully submits that claims 1 and 14, and the claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

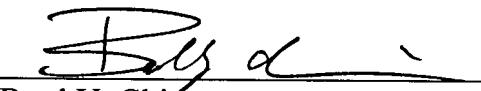
In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that XP and the Office taking Official Notice that it is well known in the art to include a key identifier with encrypted data, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest every feature recited in claims 1-11, 14-24, and 28-31. The distinctions previously noted are more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unanticipated and unobvious. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-11, 14-24, and 28-31 be allowed, and this present application be passed to issuance.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by

telephone, Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



Brad Y. Chin
Registration No. 52,738

Customer No. 32294

SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

BYC/dlh

Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Check No. 017502